

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of testing comprising:
defining a process to be tested;
identifying a plurality of risks associated with the process;
quantifying each of the risks with a risk value;
defining a test plan for the process, the test plan including a number of test cases, wherein testing of the test cases is prioritized based on the risk value; and
executing the test plan.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the process is executed at least in part by an automated system.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying at least one failure of the process based on executing the test plan; and
modifying the process based on the at least one failure.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of quantifying each of the risks with a risk value comprises:
assigning a value for (1) the likelihood of the failure occurring, (2) the severity of the effect of the failure on the process being tested, and (3) the likelihood that the failure would be detected before it impacted another part of the process; and
multiplying the values together to calculate the risk value.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the test cases comprises a set of conditions.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein each of the test cases represents a hypothetical person having various physical attributes, and the process comprises an insurance application process.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein a portion of the risks relate to errors in an insurance application process.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of categorizing the test cases based on a relative complexity of the test cases.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying at least one core test case, the core test case comprising conditions that test basic functionality of the process.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the test cases are defined, in part, by forming a matrix with test cases listed along a first axis and risks listed along a second axis.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising designing at least a portion of the test cases to each test a plurality of risks so as to reduce the number of test cases needed to test all of the risks.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising recording the definition of each test case to enable the testing of the test cases to be reproduced at a later time.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
executing a first set of test cases on a first version of the process, the first set of test cases testing a basic functionality of the first version of the process; and thereafter simultaneously (a) executing a second set of test cases on the first version of the process, the second set of test cases testing additional functionality of the process, and (b) executing a first set of test cases on a second version of the process, the first set of test cases testing a basic functionality of the second version of the process.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising recording errors in the process in a standardized format.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising correcting the errors in an order based on a severity level of the errors.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of executing the test plan comprises:
simultaneously testing a predetermined number of test cases on a model system to assess a capacity of the model system; and

estimating a capacity of a production system to handle a number of test cases based on the number of test cases tested in the model system and the relative capacity of the production system with respect to the model system.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising simultaneously testing a single subprocess comprising a portion of process with a plurality of test cases.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising flow testing a plurality of test cases through the entire process.

19. A method of testing comprising:
defining a system to be tested;
identifying a plurality of risks associated with the system;
quantifying each of the risks with a risk value;
defining a test plan for the system, the test plan including a number of test cases, wherein testing of the test cases is prioritized based on the risk value; and
executing the test plan.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of quantifying each of the risks with a risk value comprises:

assigning a value for (1) the likelihood of the failure occurring, (2) the severity of the effect of the failure on the system being tested, and (3) the likelihood that the failure would be detected before it impacted another part of the system; and
multiplying the values together to calculate the risk value.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein each of the test cases comprises a set of conditions.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein each of the test cases represents a hypothetical person having various physical attributes, and the system comprises an insurance application system.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein a portion of the risks relate to errors in an insurance application system.

24. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of categorizing the test cases based on a relative complexity of the test cases.

25. The method of claim 19, further comprising identifying at least one core test case, the core test case comprising conditions that test basic functionality of the system.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein the test cases are defined, in part, by forming a matrix with test cases listed along a first axis and risks listed along a second axis.

27. The method of claim 19, further comprising designing at least a portion of the test cases to each test a plurality of risks so as to reduce the number of test cases needed to test all of the risks.

28. The method of claim 19, further comprising recording the definition of each test case to enable the testing of the test cases to be reproduced at a later time.

29. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
executing a first set of test cases on a first version of the system, the first set of test cases testing a basic functionality of the first version of the system; and thereafter simultaneously (a) executing a second set of test cases on the first version of the system, the second set of test cases testing additional functionality of the system, and (b) executing a first set of test cases on a second version of the system, the first set of test cases testing a basic functionality of the second version of the system.

30. The method of claim 19, further comprising recording errors in the system in a standardized format.

31. The method of claim 19, further comprising correcting the errors in an order based on a severity level of the errors.

32. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for testing a process or a system, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive and store data identifying a plurality of risks associated with the process or system;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive and store a risk value associated with each of the plurality of risks;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive and store data defining a test plan for the process or system, the test plan including at least one test case, the at least one test case comprising at least one step;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive and store data associating each of the plurality of risks with a step of a test case; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to generate a report listing the risks in order of the risk value.

33. The article of claim 32, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing the computer to generate a report identifying a pass/fail status for each test case.

34. The article of claim 32, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive and store data identifying errors in the process or the system.

35. The article of claim 34, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing the computer to generate a report identifying a status of the errors.